Maritime Zone of India with a view to the protection of maritime and other national interest in such zones and the matters connected therewith under the provisions of Coast Guard Act, 1978. While there is a distinct role of Coast Guard in maritime affairs, there is a synergy between the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard. Coast Guard has its own organisation and force and no need has been felt to take personnel from other Para-Military Forces on deputation. Coast Guard is a disciplined Armed Force of the Union and there are clear guidelines for its personnel to conduct themselves in different scenario including dealing with fishermen.

Review on involvement of middleman in defence deals

2061. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to review the system of involving middlemen in the defence deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM 2006) under implementation with effect from 1st September 2006, provide for direct dealing with original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or Authorised Vendors or Government sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs). Further, the procedures *inter-alia* incorporate provisions for penalties being imposed if any seller engages any individual or firm, whether Indian or foreign whatsoever, to intercede, facilitate or in any way recommend to the Government of India or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially, to the award of the Contract to the Seller.

Joint exercises with different countries

2062. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which India has conducted joint defence exercises in the last two years; and

(b) how India has benefited from these exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The names of countries with which India has conducted joint defence exercises in the last two years are USA, France, UK, Oman, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, China, Maldives and Mongolia.

(b) These exercises have helped in enhancing interoperability with defence forces of friendly foreign countries and in increasing military to military cooperation.

Troops deployed in UN peace keeping force

2063. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where Indian troops are at present deployed as part of the UN peace keeping force;

(b) what is the number of troops so deployed and the terms and conditions of deployment; and

(c) by when the term of deployment is likely to be over?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Indian Armed Forces personnel are deployed in six UN Peace Keeping Missions *viz.*, Congo, Lebanon, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Sudan, Golan Heights and Ivory Coast, at present.

(b) A total of 8887 Indian Armed Forces' personnel are presently deployed in UN Peace keeping operations and UN Headquarters, New York. The terms and conditions of the personnel deployed in these missions are governed by the orders/instructions issued by the UN and Government of India including Memorandum of Understanding/ Letter of Assist signed between UN and Government of India.

(c) Each peacekeeping mission is governed by UN mandate which is reviewed from time to time.

Protection of strategic interests in Indian Ocean Region

2064. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) are India's growing strategic interest for unhindered economic interests in the Indian Ocean Region well protected and are adequate reconnaissance aircrafts and long-range fighters having logistic support from aircraft carrier and dedicated comparable smaller versions deployed at well-identified points;

(b) if so, does the Naval Formations also provide requisite protection to our off-shore oil exploration platform; and

(c) did any foreign intrusion in Indian Ocean Region occur during 2005 and 2006?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) India's strategic and economic interests in Indian Ocean Region are well protected and the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard are geared upto ensuring the safety of India's maritime interests. Adequate reconnaissance and surveillance of the sea areas of India's interest is also maintained by both shore-based and ship-borne surveillance aircraft. Indian Navy's ships and aircraft undertake regular patrols to ensure the safety of the country's off-shore oil exploration platforms.

(c) There is no information of any intrusion in the Indian Ocean Region during the years 2005 and 2006.

Armed forces personnel who died in action

2065. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Armed Forces personnel who died in action during 2007 with break up force-wise; and

(b) whether the families of the above have any outstanding claim/benefit that are yet to be cleared by the Central/State Governments?